



## Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via Zoom at 7:00pm

1. Number of Members present and Apologies for absence.

14 members were present and apologies were received from: John Richardson, David Fox, Julie Taylor, Rita Fell, William Sharp, Adrian Dickinson, Denise Walsh, Sheila Ramsdale

2. Minutes of previous meeting November 2021.

These were unanimously agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.

Proposed by Paul Kenyon

Seconded by Andy Lomax

3. Matters Arising: Clare

Action Points:

**November AP1. Contact A Brogan re Mills at risk - Andy L** Agenda item 4

**\*November AP2. Draw up a draft list for suitable video equipment - Christian F.**

List of equipment drawn up totalling £367. Asked to revise up to the awarded total of £500 to include a GoPro camera for guided walks etc. Christian agreed to do this on behalf of the Society.

**November AP3. Members Lynn S, Denise W and Clare K to meet up Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November to organise the next meeting at Real Crafty in December. They will decide on the catering and arrangements for the quiz, raffle and entertainment for the evening.** Completed.

**November AP4. Create and prepare a list of heritage at risk assets currently in the Galleries Complex - Bob S** Completed.

**November AP5. Draft a letter to be submitted to Wigan Council requesting that WLHHS be actively involved in the process regarding the disposal and re-siting of the heritage assets from the Galleries complex - Derek W** Completed.

To be sent to Conservation Officer Ian Rowan, cc to Chief Exec, circulated to members.

4. Eckersley Mill. - Andy Lomax

Not much progress since last meeting.



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Andy recommended a Future Learn free short course on History of Cotton Factories:

**Working Lives in the Factories and Mills: Textile heritage of the factory workers** <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/factory-lives-working-in-the-textile-mills>

A discussion took place about Leyland Mill and a planning application for executive housing. Derek W requested a copy of the architectural report from Peter F.

**December AP1. Chase up Anthony Lowe from Mills of the North Campaign to arrange a meeting and the Ashley Brogan email - AL**

### 5. Treasurer update and subscriptions

£200 paid by Cultural Consortium for the attendance at meetings of WLHHS representative.

Loss of approx £50 for buffet, however this is adequately covered by the money collected in via raffle.

34 Member Subscription payments have been paid into account via Bank transfer. Some members prefer to make cash payments so arrangements will be made for this.

The bank account is looking healthy.

**December AP2. Facilitate cash payment arrangements - CK**

### 6. WLHHS Subscriptions and membership benefits

Lancashire Local History Federation, British Association for Local History

A discussion took place about the benefits for all members when taking out subscriptions to the above associations, for example, newsletters, informative websites with links to many history resources, Society Insurance, reduced fees for talks and webinars, discounted books and free publications.

The Society insurance policy will be of great benefit to cover any liability on walks, visits and meetings.

It was agreed subject to the approval of the treasurer and anyone else submitting any comments in next few days that subscriptions should be taken out with both organisations.

**December AP3. Secretary to renew subscription to LFLH at a cost of £8 per annum and to take out a society subscription with BALH at an annual rate of £75 - CK**

### 7. Local Heritage Listing -supporting Greater Manchester Heritage



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A request for support from GMAAS who are currently working on this has been received.

A discussion took place around this matter and Peter F suggested that we look at the criteria contained in 200 page document by GMLH

The discussion was also about the work of Wigan Buildings which is involved in unofficial listings for the Wigan area.

**December AP4. Email AB to offer the information on WB to use as a data base -PF**

### 8. Working Group Reports:

- Projects, Archives and Training: Peter

WLHHS continues to have a large global audience. There has been over 3000 visits to the site last month.

Peter updated the meeting on the progress in the Common Seal Stonework project where he reported that it is now under discussion with the planning dept. and the developers.

Sadly, the hunt for the workhouse-volunteers missing paintings of the Gidlow Sisters has come to an end without finding them.

No updates on Plantation Gates - no news is good news?

He then outlined a number of new articles now available on the WLHHS website - Letters from the past - hardships growing up in Wigan, reasons for poor housing in Wigan, workhouse and Poor Law in Wigan, an audio interview with Pit Brow Lasses. He has received some information on Winstanley Hall from AB.

He gave an update on the Wigan Buildings website - The original BLINT list data has now been uploaded. There are 5 regular volunteers but still looking for more volunteers to help with photographs and research of the buildings in conservation areas.

A discussion took place regarding the many heritage buildings at risk.

**December AP5. At Risk Building of the Month - PF**

**To be placed as an agenda item at January meeting - CK**

- Cultural Consortium



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Arts Council - Artists are now sorted for first part of the project - digital and on the street. Project progressing nicely. Two artists have requested a guided walk around the KSHAZ project area.

**December AP6. Invite the artists along to, either a Guided walk arranged for 30<sup>th</sup> December - weather permitting or a bespoke walk - date to be arranged in January - CK**

- KS HAZ The Street That Was: as above Guided walk.

### 9. Social Media Reports - Clare

No report this month.

### 10. Any other Business

- Update on Art work - a tribute to the Wigan Cotton Mill Workers DW requested to place this as an agenda item at January meeting.

**December AP7. Place as agenda item at January Meeting - CK**

- Neil informed the meeting that Georgian/Victorian workshops and stables owned by Canal and Rivers Trust are currently up for auction. Not listed but within HAZ.
- **December AP8. Draw up a list of heritage assets - NL**
- A very interesting discussion took place around a photograph discovered by member Ron Hunt taken of Wallgate dated around 1894-1898 prior to Wallgate station.

### 11. Date and time of next meeting:

Presentation Meeting: January 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Real Crafty - Was Wigan Coccium by Ian Miller

Members Meeting: Monday January 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm via Zoom